

clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 12, 1997.

Vanester M. Williams,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD 97-055]

Towing Safety Advisory Committee; Vacancies

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is seeking applications for appointment to membership on the Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC). TSAC provides advice and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. **DATES:** Applications must reach the Coast Guard on or before October 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: You may request an application form by writing Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street SW, room 1210, Washington, DC 20593-0001; by calling 202-267-1181; or by faxing 202-267-4570. Submit application forms to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Lionel Mew, Assistant Executive Director, telephone 202-267-0218; fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) is a Federal advisory committee constituted under 5 U.S.C. App. 2. It provides advice and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. The advice and recommendations also assist the Coast Guard in formulating the position of the United States in advance of meetings of the International Maritime Organization.

TSAC meets at least once a year at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, or another location selected by the Coast Guard. It may also meet for

extraordinary purposes. Its subcommittees and working groups may meet to consider specific problems as required.

The Coast Guard will consider applications for five positions that expire or become vacant in October 1997, as follows: Two members from the barge and towing industry, reflecting a geographical balance; one member from port districts, authorities, or terminal operators; one member from maritime labor; and one member from the general public. To be eligible, applicants should have experience in towing operations, marine transportation, occupational safety and health, environmental protection, or business operations associated with the towing industry. Each member serves for a term of 3 years. A few members may serve consecutive terms. All members serve at their own expense and receive no salary, reimbursement of travel expenses, or other compensation from the Federal Government.

In support of the policy of the Department of Transportation on gender and ethnic diversity, the Coast Guard encourages applications from qualified women and members of minority groups.

Applicants selected may be required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450). Neither the report nor the information it contains may be released to the public, except under an order issued by a Federal court or as otherwise provided under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a).

Dated: August 8, 1997.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[CGD 97-056]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) will conduct two meetings to discuss various issues relating to merchant marine personnel. Both meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: MERPAC will conduct a working group meeting on Thursday, September 25, 1997, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will

conduct a public meeting on Friday, September 26, 1997, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before September 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: MERPAC will meet on both days at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, Piney Point, MD. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Lieutenant Commander Steven J. Boyle, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander Steven J. Boyle, Executive Director of MERPAC, or Mr. Mark C. Gould, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone 202-267-6890, fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of September 26, 1997 Public Meeting

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC)

The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Introduction.
- (2) Progress report from the subcommittee on the International Convention on the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).
- (3) Progress report from the subcommittee on the National Maritime Center.
- (4) Progress report from subcommittee on marine simulation.
- (5) Other items to be discussed:
 - (a) Standing Committee—Prevention Through People (PTP)
 - (b) Regional Examination Center activities
 - (c) MERPAC web site on the Coast Guard home page

Procedural

Both meetings are open to the public. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Executive Director no later than September 15, 1997. Written material for distribution at a meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than September 15, 1997. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of a meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Executive Director no later than September 5, 1997.